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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,485	01/09/2004	Angela Marie Lansberry	1001.008	6881
44144	7590	03/22/2006	EXAMINER	
BRENC LAW			CHEN, VIVIAN	
47 BANKS ROAD			ART UNIT	
SIMSBURY, CT 06070			PAPER NUMBER	

1773

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/753,485

Applicant(s)

LANSBERRY, ANGELA MARIE

Examiner

Vivian Chen

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/22/05; 1/9/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over:

JAPANESE PATENT APPLICATION 04-201335 (JP '335).

JP '335 discloses a light transmissive decorative film comprising two light transmissive patterned or printed film layers and an intervening adhesive layer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use conventional imaging forming methods such as printing to form metallic patterns in order to obtain detailed or complicated designs. One of ordinary skill in the art would have selected the match (or lack thereof) and the alignment (or lack thereof) of the patterns on the various film layers (claims 8-10) depending on the specific visual effect and ultimate design desired.

2. Claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over:

JAPANESE PATENT APPLICATION 08-157239 (JP '239);

in view of JAPANESE PATENT APPLICATION 05-104695 (JP '695) and MORAN (US 2003/0161997).

JP '239 discloses a light transmissive decorative film comprising at least one printed film layer sandwiched between two adhesive layers, wherein the adhesive layer is polyvinyl butyral. (entire document, see 0007, 0013, Figure 1).

Art Unit: 1773

JP '695 discloses that is well known in the art to apply printing on both surfaces of a decorative sheet in order to obtain desirable visual effects such as depth or a pseudo-3D effect, etc. (entire document, see paragraph 0002)

MORAN '997 discloses that it is well known in the art to use polymers such as polycarbonates or PET as support films for decorative layers for interlayer laminates in order to obtain decorative film layers that readily withstand additional lamination and manufacturing operations. The reference further discloses that it is well known in the art to incorporate colorants into adhesive PVB layers for interlayer films in order to obtain desirable aesthetics or light-filtering effects. (paragraph 0023-0024; 0031-0032)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply print patterns on both surfaces of a decorative film in order to produce interesting visual effects. It also would have been obvious to use other known high mechanical strength, heat-resistant films such as PET as the base film for printing depending on material costs and the specific mechanical or chemical characteristics required for specific applications. One of ordinary skill in the art would have selected the match (or lack thereof) and the alignment (or lack thereof) of the patterns on the various print layers (claims 16-18) depending on the specific visual effect and ultimate optical design desired.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 1/9/2006 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 1773

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/9/2006 with respect to JP '335 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(A) Applicant argues that the film in JP '335 is not optically clear. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an optically clear film) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Furthermore, the reference clearly indicates that decorative film can be seen through.

(B) Applicant argues that the adhesive layers of the claimed invention are substantially different from the intermediate adhesive layer of JP '335. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an adhesive layer of specific thickness, or functionality other than adhesion, etc.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 19-48 are allowed.

Art Unit: 1773

4. Claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a laminate comprising a first print patterned support film layer, an intervening adhesive layer, and a second print patterned film layer, wherein: (1) the support films are PET (claims 2, 19, 33, 38); (2) the adhesive is polyvinyl butyral (claim 3, 19, 33, 28); (3) adhesive layers are present on both surfaces on of the laminate (claim 4); or (4) intervening adhesive layers of the recited thickness (claim 39).

Art Unit: 1773

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney, can be reached on (571) 272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

The General Information telephone number for Technology Center 1700 is (571) 272-1700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 17, 2006



Vivian Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1773